

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing as a philosopher and American citizen to challenge the Comcast/Time Warner/Adelphia merger (FCC Docket No. 05-192) and the AT&T/BellSouth merger (FCC Docket No. 06-74). The idea of officially approving the de facto licensing of the largest telecommunications company and the two largest cable companies in the United States to grow even larger does not serve, logically, the interest of anyone. How could it?

The concentration of media power--in organizations not required to define what they mean by truth, honesty, objectivity, non fiction, non-figurative language, fiction, informatipon nor anything else is insane on the face of it...

Monopoly of information-releasing outlets, the replacing any form of categorical-definitionbased marketplace where individuals make decisions, is unarguably a growing problem in this country. Though we have more channels available than ever before, they are increasingly falling under the 'tsaristic' control of a handful of giant corporations' incompetent and wholly unregulated executives. Why? Why should the mentally and morally unprepared be made de facto dictators over geniuses, creators, and ordinary honest citizens? And to what defensible purpose?

Since when is avarice, stupidity, non-definition, moral postmodernism and a disregard for individuals' rights and the clear labeling of intentions the bonm fides of a valuable news reporter? Or of his 'news tsar' interfering boss?

The cost of broadband service also remains out of reach for most households. Americans are hungry for more competition in services, not desirous of becoming more confused. The defalcation of such organization's leaders on issues of objectivity, categorizing definitions and simple fairness is a matter of public record. Dozens of writers, philosophers, teachers and others have excoriated the new 'moguls' for their pro-imperial-preidential bias, their lack of thoroughness, and their inability to provide the science behind complex issues.

However, these mergers will only further starve Americans of much-needed competition. It would not matter if these men heading collectivistic media corporations were saints; their companies would still function illegally. It does matter I argue that they are diseducated advocates of irreponsibility and non-competition; moreover, where no money changes hands directly and no definitions identify what news must be, there can be no protection of each individual's rights in the matter of true versus falsified information. Such protection will be a zero.

Allowing AT&T to combine with BellSouth will hand over to the wealthiest three broadband providers control of over HALF of all broadband connections in the country. How many citizens would vote for

such a loss of diversity, responsible controls by government over such organizations' crimes, etc.?

At the same time, the Time Warner/Comcast/Adelphia merger will give Comcast and Time Warner increased power over entire regions of the United States; this will allow their immoral executives to act criminally, to raise rates for incompetent and illegal so-called services even as the digital divide continues to grow between the government-connected syuperwealthy immoralists and their disenfranchised collectivized citizen victims.

The FCC should block these transactions altogether; as a second chice the CC commisioners must impose clearly defined and exceedingly strict conditions on the purveyors of non-fictional information, to protect free speech and any remaining competition still possible under its "public interest standard." If the FCC decides to allow either of these mergers, it must obviously require exactly the following conditions:

1. Subscribers must be able to choose from among all competitive Internet Service Providers ("open access"). The FCC should also ensure that these companies cannot discriminate against any Internet content or rival service and that every service will be treated exactly the same (so as to preserve "Network Neutrality").
2. Companies must be required to sell broadband access as a totally separate commodity from video and telephone service, and at the same price (to preserve "naked broadband" or "unbundling").
3. Any subscriber must be able to connect any device to the network (such as a Wi-Fi router) that does not harm the network.
4. Take steps to protect public access programming ("PEG"). (Cable companies have become less and less and less responsive to the needs and requirements of individuals and communities. The quality of public accountability in local franchise agreements has declined disastrously, as huge artificially created corporations leverage their power to squeeze local governments. Likewise, telecommunications giants — like AT&T — are trying to eliminate the remaining vestiges of effective local oversight and all necessary controls over their unregulated and collectivistic pseudo-news operations and activities, altogether.)
5. Independent programmers must be able to reach subscribers. We are required now as purchasers to buy channels we don't want or need because providers of video service bundle them together; and they continue to increase the cost for these when there is no physical reason for the cost to be increased whatever. And at the same time the quality of what is being offered is being allowed to decline.

6. Any company that owns both programming and video systems should be required to provide competitors with access to their regional sports and other programming, needed to offer competing services, so consumers will still have real choices.

In conclusion, I ask the FCC to consider the interests of individuals like me who pay the cable, telephone and broadband bills and watch the programming, fictional and non-fictional.

Many of us already have enough trouble trying to afford broadband or cable TV. Please don't make it even harder for us to find competitors, or make it easier for Comcast, Time Warner and AT&T to raise prices or block local and independent voices.

They are minds WITHOUT ANY demonstrated scientific knowledge, morality, ethics or any other capability for doing anything except operating monopolies. They cannot produce information; they cannot even define the difference between fiction and non-fiction. They have had six decades to work for a science of how to separate opinion statements from ascribed facts, or from roofs, and separate attitudes from standard-based value statements. In all that time, I assert they have done nothing to protect each individual's rights to objective ascribed factual, proof-based or standards-based value assertion.

The mania for tsaristic mergers has to be stopped now. It matters less who is running any corporation or how large it is than what categories of goods it is strictly held to offer. Until categories have been put in place, no man's rights can ever be safe. And such mergers violate the spirit and letter of American law, which is supposed to promote competition, not destroy individuals' right to know. Our constitution requires governmental servitors to protect the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness of individuals, not de facto nobility houses calling themselves companies, who are really totalitarian corporations.